

## Message Text

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72

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 ARA-16 RSR-01 /129 W  
----- 085372

R 141546Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 426

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGUI 0927

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CT

SUBJECT: BOKASSA'S RETURN AND INDEPENDENCE DAY ACTIVITIES

1. PRESIDENT BOKASSA RETURNED EVENING APRIL 12 FROM MONTH-LONG TRIP TO RUMANIA AND WEST GERMANY. IN AIRPORT SPEECH GIVEN IN NATIONAL LANGUAGE SANGO, HE RECOUNTED HIS JOURNEYS AND ANNOUNCED WHERE HE WAS GOING NEXT, I.E. BRAZZAVILLE, LIBREVILLE, SOVIET UNION, IVORY COAST, BELGIUM, HAITI AND UNITED STATES.

2. INDEPENDENCE DAY CEREMONIES PASSED CALMLY. IN SPEECH AGAIN GIVEN IN SANGO, BOKASSA ANNOUNCED PARDON OF PRISONERS INCLUDING POLITICAL PRISONERS HELD SINCE HIS 1966 COUP SUCH AS FORMER SECRETARY GENERAL OF NATIONAL PARTY MESAN UNDER DACKO REGIME. PARDON ALSO INCLUDED COMMON CRIMINALS EXCEPT FOR THIEVES AND THOSE JAILED FOR ACTIONS SUCH AS "IDLING" WHICH "SABOTAGE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT." BOKASSA ALSO DEDICATED TWO NEW RIVER CRAFT, PRAISING FRENCH AND FED AID FOR THEM. NO CRITICISM OF ANY FOREIGN COUNTRY INCLUDED IN ANY OF SPEECHES.

3. COMMENT: EXCEPT FOR ONE HEATED REFERENCE TO "TRAITOROUS" CAR FOOTBALLERS WHO HAD ALLEGEDLY ACCEPTED BRIBES TO THROW  
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RECENT MATCH WITH IVORY COAST IN LAGOS, BOKASSA WAS

MODERATE THROUGHOUT ALL FESTIVITIES. HE WAS OBVIOUSLY PLEASED  
WITH VISITS JUST CONCLUDED, PARTICULARLY ONE TO GERMANY, AND  
LOOKING FORWARD TO TRAVELING AGAIN. HE IS NOT GOING TO  
BRAZZAVILLE AFTER ALL, AND THIS IS FIRST WE HAVE HEARD OF  
IVORY COAST, BUT OTHER DESTINATIONS SEEM FAIRLY WELL FIXED.  
ROSENTHAL

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 AUG 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** garlanwa  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973BANGUI00927  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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